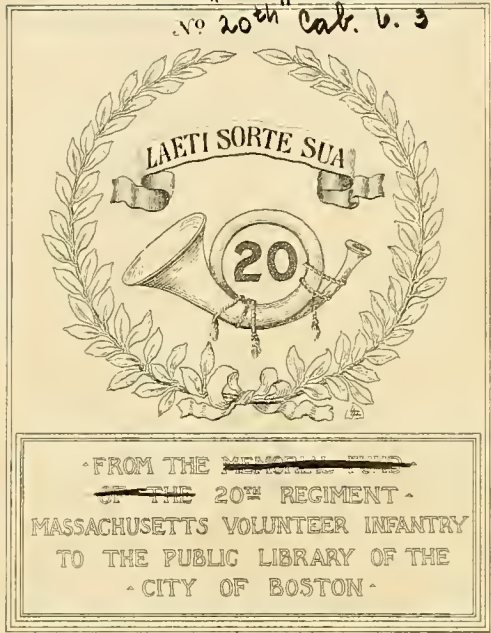


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Committee of the Club. of Officers of 20<sup>th</sup> West Va. Infantry.  
Apr. 20. 1905.

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July 1.

BUZZARDS BAY, MASS.

Dear John.

Looking over  
old papers, I came  
across the article <sup>which</sup>  
I wrote for the Mill  
Hill Society a year or  
a half ago - Reflection  
makes me firm in the  
opinion that it will  
not do to publish it  
or read before any  
Society - It will too  
greatly wound the feelings  
of the families of the

minutes of the Com. of C  
Op

20th

dear - the long  
man whom I attach  
for our drink - It  
may be in some  
chinks of your mind,  
almost full of knowledge  
of every detail of the  
war. Read it & return  
at <sup>your</sup> convenience, no  
hurry! Nothing  
new is it, very egotistical  
but possibly as seen  
in two of interest to  
you.

I wish you could

UNRECORDED  
SENT TO  
RECORDED



would come down  
any time after July  
15 & spend a few  
days with us. I've  
written F. Parthut, asking  
him to come & we  
could have a trio, best  
in virtuous case.

Always yours,

C. Whittemore

---



20th

Committee of the Class of 1870  
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ALL THE DETAILS OF THE MOVEMENT, EARLY IN THE WAR, OF THE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT TO THE FIELD ARE FULL OF INTEREST, AS WE RECALL THEM. FRUIT OR DRESSED BEEF ARE NOW MOVED WITH MUCH GREATER CARE AND CONSIDERATION FOR COMFORT THAN WERE POSSIBLE TO BE GIVEN TO OUR TROOPS. THINK OF THE 20TH MASSACHUSETTS BEING TRANSPORTED FROM BALTIMORE TO WASHINGTON IN CATTLE CARS, BENCHES PLACED ACROSS, THE WHOLE NIGHT OCCUPIED. THE REGIMENT REACHED WASHINGTON AT DAYLIGHT, AND OFFICERS AND MEN THREW THEMSELVES ON THE FLOOR OF THE PLATFORM AT STATION AND SLEPT UNTIL NOON,

A SHORT STOP AT CAMP KALORAMA AT WASHINGTON, THEN THE MARCH UP THROUGH MARYLAND TO POOLSVILLE. EACH COMPANY HAD TWO WAGONS, AND MOST OF US COMPLAINING OF THE INADEQUACY OF TRANSPORTATION WHICH DID NOT SEEM EQUAL TO TRUNKS, IRON BEDSTEADS, MATTRESSES, MESS CHESTS, BATH TUBS AND MANY OTHER ABSURDITIES. IT WAS NOT SO VERY LONG BEFORE A SOLITARY WAGON FOR THE WHOLE REGIMENT WAS HAILED WITH DELIGHT AS IT CAME INTO CAMP AFTER AN ABSENCE OF PERHAPS TWO OR THREE DAYS WHILE THE TROOPS WERE ON THE MARCH.

REACHING POOLSVILLE WE JOINED THE COMMAND OF GENERAL CHARLES P. STONE - THIS WAS CALLED A CORPS OF OBSERVATION - AND WE WERE PLACED IN THE BRIGADE COMMANDED BY GENERAL LANDER. THE MISFORTUNES OF GENERAL STONE ARE FAMILIAR TO YOU ALL. WHILE I THINK BLAME ATTACHES TO HIM FOR HIS MEAGRE PREPARATIONS AND ABSOLUTE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE BATTLE OF BALL'S BLUFF, STILL I CAN TESTIFY THAT NEVER DURING THE WAR DID I SEE A MORE VIGILANT OFFICER; VIGILANT IN THE SENSE OF VISITING HIS CAMP AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY AND NIGHT; THOROUGHLY INSPECTING THE TROOPS AND ATTENDING TO ALL THE DETAILS OF CAMP LIFE. NO OFFICER ON GUARD WOULD DARE SLEEP OR NEGLECT HIS DUTY, FOR GENERAL STONE MIGHT APPEAR AT ANY MOMENT. HE WAS AN EXCELLENT DISCIPLINARIAN.



THE REGIMENT WAS CAMPED BETWEEN THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF POOLSVILLE AND EDWARDS FERRY ON THE POTOMAC, AND DETACHMENTS WERE CONSTANTLY SENT TO THE RIVER, NOT ONLY FOR PICKET DUTY, BUT AT TIMES OF SUPPOSED EMERGENCY WHEN THERE WERE RUMORS OF THE ENEMY BEING ABOUT TO CROSS, EITHER TO RECONNOITRE OR FORAY. ONE AFTERNOON TWO OR THREE COMPANIES WERE HASTILY ORDERED OUT, PROVIDED WITH SOME DAYS RATIONS, - CAPTAIN (AFTERWARDS GENERAL) W. F. BARTLETT IN COMMAND. JUST BEFORE MOVING, GENERAL LANDER DASHED DOWN BEFORE OUR LINE UPON HIS FINE HORSE, AND GAVE US AN EXHORTATION: "MEN OF MASSACHUSETTS TO YOU IS ASSIGNED THE POST OF HONOR" ETC. WE THEN STARTED WITH SURGEONS AND OMINOUS LOOKING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, ANTICIPATING THE DIREST CONFLICT <sup>^</sup> CARNAGE - BUT, APART FROM ONE OR TWO FALSE ALARMS BY NIGHT, WE HAD NO EXCITEMENT EXCEPT A WEEK OF VERY GOOD FOOD AT A HOSPITABLE MAYRLAND HOUSE. SOON THE SAD DAY OF BALL'S BLUFF CAME.

AS HAS BEEN STATED, NO ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED, IN FACT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS MADE UNDER FALSE IMPRESSIONS DERIVED FROM THE REPORTS MADE BY A RECONNOITRING PARTY WHO COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN THE STRENGTH OR POSITION OF THE ENEMY. THE TROOPS MOVED UP THE TOW PATH OF THE CANAL CROSSING IN SMALL BOATS TO HARRISON'S ISLAND. A PORTION OF THE TROOPS, <sup>of vt</sup> ~~^~~ 15TH MASSACHUSETTS, 42D NEW YORK, THE CALIFORNIA REGIMENT AND 20TH MASSACHUSETTS CROSSING TO VIRGINIA. LATER ~~THE~~ ~~DAY~~, AFTER SOME CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY, THE REST OF THE TROOPS CROSSED; AND HAD HARDLY MOUNTED THE HIGH BLUFF ON THE RIVER BANK, WHEN THEY WERE ORDERED TO ARMS AT THE APPEARANCE OF THE ENEMY. COL. LEE SOON COL. BAKER CROSSED, ASSUMED COMMAND, ADDRESSING <sup>^</sup> SOMEWHAT TO THIS EFFECT: "WELL COLONEL I CONGRATULATE YOU ON AT LAST GETTING A CHANCE AT THESE FELLOWS, AND BEFORE NIGHT WE WILL GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF OURSELVES" ETC. THE CONDUCT OF THE BATTLE, IF THERE WAS ANY CONDUCT, WAS AS BAD AS CAN BE IMAGINED. ANY LIEUTENANT ON THAT FIELD COULD HAVE DONE BETTER SIX MONTHS LATER



NO ONE SEEMED TO KNOW WHO WAS THE COMMANDING OFFICER, AND NO ONE, SO FAR AS I HAVE EVER HEARD, HAD ANY DISTINCT VIEWS AS TO WHAT WAS TO BE DONE. WHERE THE 20TH WAS IN LINE WITH SLIGHT RISING GROUND IN ITS FRONT; IT WAS TOLD TO CHARGE TO HIGHER GROUND, THE MEN TO DISCHARGE THEIR MUSKETS, THEN DROP ON THE GROUND, FALL BACK, LOAD AND REPEAT THE PERFORMANCE. NO PERSISTENT ADVANCE SEEMED TO BE CONTEMPLATED BY ANYBODY. COL. BAKER AND COL. LEE BOTH WERE ENGAGED FOR SOME TIME, AS I REMEMBER, IN CONVEYING AMMUNITION TO THE TWO HOWITZERS WITH US. AFTER A SHORT TIME OF EXCHANGE OF SHOTS, DEMORALIZATION ON THE PART OF OUR SIDE CAME, AND THE FORCE MOVED DOWN THE BLUFF TO THE SHORE OF THE RIVER, WITH BULLETS OF THE ENEMY WHISTLING THROUGH THE TREES. HERE IT WAS A CASE OF EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF. THOSE WHO THOUGHT THEY COULD SWIM THE RIVER ATTEMPTED IT WITHOUT HINDRANCE ON OUR SIDE. I SAW SOME MEN, ATTEMPTING TO SWIM AND CARRY THEIR MUSKETS. MAJOR PAUL REVERE STOOD BY THE BOATS FOR AWHILE, DRIVING OFF THE UNINJURED MEN WHO TRIED TO SEIZE THEM, KEEPING THEM <sup>FOR</sup> ~~FROM~~ THE WOUNDED, - BUT THE BOATS WERE SOON SWAMPED. MY ATHLETIC FRIEND, CASPER <sup>A</sup>CROWNINSHIELD, SWAM THE RIVER, HIS WATCH CAREFULLY GUARDED IN HIS MOUTH. THAT TREASURE, I MEAN THE WATCH, TO BE CAREFULLY LEFT IN THE <sup>HAY</sup> STACK ON THE ISLAND WHERE THE GALLANT CAPTAIN SLEPT THAT NIGHT. IT WAS A FEARFUL SIGHT - THAT RIVER - SO MANY MEN DROWNING - SOME OF THEM SHOT BY THE ENEMY AS THEY WERE SWIMMING.

THIS AFFAIR AND INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH THE SEARCHING OF CAMPS FOR THE RETURN OF FUGITIVE SLAVES SO OPERATED ON THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE AT WASHINGTON THAT GENERAL STONE WAS <sup>Relieved</sup> ~~RELEASED~~ FROM DUTY AND IMPRISONED AT FORT LAFAYETTE.

AN AMUSING, BLUSTERING (AS YET UNCONFIRMED BY THE SENATE) BRIG. - GEN. WILLIS A. GORMAN, BY VIRTUE OF HIS SENIORITY, ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE CORPS. THE LIMITS OF TIME WILL NOT PERMIT ME





TO NARRATE MANY OF HIS PROFANE PECULIARITIES SO WELL KNOWN TO ALL WHO SERVED WITH HIM. HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO ASK ME TO SERVE ON HIS STAFF DURING HIS BRIEF COMMAND, AND WHEN I REPORTED FOR DUTY HE CALLED ME ASIDE AND SAID "MR. WHITTIER GENERAL STONE HAS HAD ABOUT HIM, BY GOD SIR, A STAFF WHICH I MAY FITLY CALL AN ASSEMBLAGE OF VIPERS, SIR.- YOU SHALL BE MY CONFIDENTIAL OFFICER- TAKE CARE OF MY PAPERS,- AND LOOK OUT FOR THE VIPERS, SIR". HE HAD VERY MUCH ON THE BRAIN THE FAILURE OR DELAY OF THE SENATE TO CONFIRM HIM, AND THOUGHT <sup>THAT</sup> SOME GRAND MILITARY MOVEMENT WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO HIM, WHICH WOULD GIVE <sup>HIM</sup> A NATIONAL REPUTATION AND SECURE THE BRIGADIER'S ~~STAFF~~ <sup>star</sup>. AND SO HE MUSED AND THOUGHT OF A CROSSING OF THE RIVER, PONTOON BRIDGES AND A GRAND BATTLE. ONE DAY AS HE AND I ALONE WERE SITTING IN THE HEAD QUARTERS BUILDING - "TICK, TICK" SOUNDED THE TELEGRAPH - AND THIS MIGHT BE A MESSAGE SIGNIFYING ANYTHING, BUT CERTAINLY IT COULD CONVEY NO KNOWLEDGE TO GENERAL GORMAN OR ME. THE GENERAL BROUGHT DOWN HIS HAND WITH A VIGOROUS THUMP ON THE TABLE AND MADLY SHOUTED "PONTOON BRIDGES, BY GOD SIR!"

AGAIN ONE DAY, HE SURPRISED ME SINCE I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS CONJUGAL WEALTH, BY THE STATEMENT WITH NO PRELIMINARIES, "MRS. GORMAN IS A DAMNED HIGH SPIRITED WOMAN, SIR- DO YOU KNOW THAT SHE HADN'T SPOKEN TO MRS. SENATOR-----FROM MINNESOTA FOR ~~TS~~ YEARS.- SHE MET HER THE OTHER DAY AT WILLARD'S HOTEL- SHE ASSUMED HER GREATEST DIGNITY AND WAS ABOUT TO PASS HER WITHOUT RECOGNITION, WHEN IT OCCURRED TO HER THAT IT MIGHT HELP MY CONFIRMATION,- AND SHE AT ONCE GREETED HER WITH OUTSTRETCHED HAND - A DAMNED HIGH SPIRITED WOMAN, SIR." THE LAST DAY OF HIS COMMAND HE WAS SERENADED BY THE BAND OF THE VAN ALLEN CAVALRY, AND AFTER HIS SPEECH, IN WHICH HE PREDICTED THE FALL OF RICHMOND WITHIN A MONTH, HE OBSERVED TO ME THAT IT WAS A GLORIOUS OCCASION, AND THAT I MUST WRITE AN ACCOUNT OF <sup>IT</sup> FOR THE NEW YORK



HERALD. I FEAR THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN TRIED FOR DISOBEDIENCE OF ORDERS, FOR I FOLDED MY TENT AND SILENTLY STOLE AWAY TO MY REGIMENT, THINKING THAT STAFF LIFE WAS INGLORIOUS AND UNPLEASANT WORK.

AND SO I SERVED WITH THE REGIMENT UNTIL AFTER THE  
*Mar - July 1862*  
 PENINSULA CAMPAIGN, WHEN GOOD GENERAL SEDGWICK ASKED ME TO GO TO HIS STAFF FOR AWHILE - HE THEN COMMANDED A DIVISION -<sup>1</sup> JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM,<sup>Sept.</sup> HE WAS OFFERED THE COMMAND OF A CORPS BUT DECLINED IT AS WE WERE ON THE EVE OF AN ENGAGEMENT, AND HE FELT THAT HE COULD DO BETTER SERVICE WITH THE TROOPS WHICH HE KNEW AND WHICH KNEW HIM, - SO GENERAL MANSFIELD TOOK COMMAND, AND WAS KILLED DURING THAT BATTLE. TWO DAYS BEFORE THE BATTLE GENERAL SUMNER CAME TO GENERAL SEDGWICK'S HEAD QUARTERS AND SAID "GENERAL WE ARE TO MOVE TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING; I AM TO COMMAND ON THE RIGHT, - HOOKER'S (I THINK) AND MY CORPS - SHALL ATTACK IN COLUMNS OF 5 LINES AND SMASH THE ENEMY, I HOPE, AND DRIVE THEM INTO THE RIVER." FOR SOME REASON THE PLAN WAS CHANGED; THE ATTACK WAS NOT MADE THE NEXT DAY, AND WHEN IT TOOK PLACE HOOKER WAS PUT IN COMMAND. BUT EARLY IN THE DAY OF THE BATTLE, SUMNER'S CORPS WAS SENT TO REINFORCE THE RIGHT. THE SAME IDEA SEEMED UPPERMOST IN SUMNER'S MIND TO SMASH THE ENEMY, WITHOUT PROPER PREPARATION OR ARRANGEMENT OF HIS CORPS, - A GREAT GAP EXISTED BETWEEN SEDGWICK'S<sup>Y</sup> FRENCH'S DIVISION. I WAS RIDING WITH GENERALS SUMNER AND SEDGWICK WITH THE FIRST BRIGADE OF THE LATTERS<sup>1</sup> COMMAND, AND AS WE WERE CLOSE TO THE DUNKER CHURCH, THE ENEMY IN THE WOODS IMMEDIATELY IN OUR FRONT, GENERAL SUMNER SAID TO GENERAL SEDGWICK "GENERAL WHERE ARE YOUR OTHER TWO LINES" - "JUST BEHIND," REPLIED SEDGWICK "YOU DON'T WANT THEM UP HERE?" "YES BRING THEM CLOSE UP TO THE<sup>S</sup> LINE," AND SO I WAS SENT FOR THEM AND THEY WERE PUT IN A POSITION WHERE THEY WERE OF NO USE AND WHERE THE SLAUGHTER WAS TERRIBLE. RARELY DURING THE WAR IN MY JUDGMENT, HAS AN EXPERIENCED OFFICER SO BUNGLED AS SUMNER DID HERE. ONE COULD NOT HELP ADMIRING THE GALLANT, STUPID OLD SOLDIER, - FOR



NO ONE EVER LOOKED MORE HEROIC THAN DID HE AT THE HEAD OF HIS TROOPS IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. HIS PRESENCE AND BEARING WITH TROOPS, <sup>Made</sup> FILLED YOUR IDEAL OF A PERFECT SOLDIER.

13 Dec 1862

AFTER THE BURNSIDE FREDICKSBURG, FAILURE, I REMEMBER HIS SPLENDID APPEARANCE AS HE REVIEWED HIS TROOPS, AND AS HE CAME TO AN UNUSUAL TRIP AT A LARGE PARADE THE 20TH MASSACHUSETTS, HE HALTED AND SPOKE, "ALL HONOR TO THE BRAVE REGIMENT, THE FIRST TO CROSS THE RIVER, AND I HOPE MY LADS THE NEXT TIME THAT SUCCESS WILL REWARD YOU." EVERY ONE WITHIN SOUND OF HIS VOICE MUST HAVE FELT A GRAND THRILL.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO JUSTICE OR CONVEY AN ADEQUATE IMPRESSION OF A CHARACTER LIKE GENERAL SEDGWICK'S. PEOPLE RECOGNIZED HIS SIMPLICITY, GENIALITY AND KINDNESS OF HEART. I DO NOT CLAIM THAT HE WAS THE GREATEST OF COMMANDERS. HE THOUGHT THAT HIS LIMIT WAS REACHED IN THE COMMAND OF A CORPS, - AND SO DECLINED

AFTER OFFERS OF ADVANCEMENT. CHANCELLORSVILLE MR SMALLEY CAME TO HIM, AS FROM THE PRESIDENT, ASKING IF HE WOULD ACCEPT COMMAND OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. HE FIRMLY SAID NO, AND WHEN ASKED WHOM HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO COMMAND, AFTER ONE OR TWO SUGGESTIONS, WHICH WERE PRONOUNCED IMPRACTICABLE, HE NAMED MEADE. SUCH DIFIDENCE IN ASSUMING ANY POSITIONS OFFERED WAS RARE DURING THE WAR. HE WAS A MOST EXCELLENT CORPS COMMANDER, - STUDIOUS OF EVERY DETAIL.

I NEVER KNEW A COMMANDER WHO SO STUDIED, ANALYZED AND REMEMBERED THE MORNING REPORTS. HE WOULD ADDRESS A COLONEL FREQUENTLY ON THE MARCH CALLING ATTENTION TO THE NUMBER OF MEN REPORTED ON EXTRA DUTY, AND SO NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMBAT. HE WAS ALWAYS OUT ON THE LINE OF MARCH AT THE HOUR DESIGNATED FOR STARTING. HE WATCHED THE MARCH ALL THE DAY AND SAW THE REGIMENTS GO INTO CAMP AT NIGHT. THE DEVOTION OF THE TROOPS TO HIM WAS VERY GREAT, AND I CAN RECALL WITH DELIGHT THE WILD CHEERS WHICH WENT UP TO HIM FROM THE SPLENDID VERMONT BRIGADE WHEN THEY RETURNED TO HIM AFTER DETACHED SERVICE OF A DAY, IN WHICH THEY HAD SUSTAINED TERRIBLE LOSSES. THESE SOLDIERS ACTED AS IF THEY HAD COME HOME OUT OF THE



STORM TO A LOVING AND CAREFUL FATHER. SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THE WONDERFUL MARCH HE MADE TO GETTYSBURG WITH HIS CORPS, MARCHING ALL NIGHT 32 TO 37 MILES, - THE FIRST MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY UNDER COLONEL GREELY CURTIS BRINGING UP THE REAR, AND REPORTING NOT A STRUGGLER. THIS GOOD WORK WAS DUE IN THE GREATEST DEGREE TO THE GENERAL'S PERSONAL INFLUENCE.

*June 24, 1863*

TWO CIRCUMSTANCES AT GETTYSBURG DESERVE MENTION.

ONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL ON THE FIELD AFTER OUR LONG MARCH I ACCOMPANIED GENERAL SEDGWICK TO GENERAL MEADE'S HEADQUARTERS, THE SMALL FARM-HOUSE WHERE WE WERE SOON TREATED TO A SEVERE SHELLING AND HEARD THE HEAVY FIRING, UNEXPECTED TO MEADE, ON SICKLES'S FRONT. WE WERE ORDERED TO THE LATTER'S SUPPORT, AND ON THE WAY GENERAL SEDGWICK TURNED TO ME AND SAID THAT HE FELT VERY ANXIOUS, IT WAS SO UNLIKE HIM THAT I EXPRESSED SURPRISE, SAYING THE CORPS SEEMS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. HE REPLIED, "OH, IT IS NOT FOR NOW THAT I FEAR, BUT FOR TONIGHT, BECAUSE WE HAVE TO MOVE." "IN WHICH DIRECTION," SAID I. ~~TO THIS~~ HE REPLIED BY POINTING TO THE REAR. I HAVE ALWAYS SUPPOSED THAT SUCH AN ORDER WAS GIVEN BASED ON THE THEORY THAT SICKLES HAD MADE A MOVEMENT WITHOUT ORDERS, WHICH SO ENDANGERED MEADE'S POSITION THAT HE HAD TO TAKE UP A NEW ONE, AND I KNEW THAT AN ORDER WAS DRAWN UP DESIGNATING PIPE CREEK AS A LINE; BUT THIS, AS I REMEMBER, WAS NOT FAR ENOUGH TO MAKE SEDGWICK APPRENSIVE AS TO THE ABILITY OF HIS CORPS. THAT NIGHT OR THE NEXT, WE WENT TO ARMY HEADQUARTERS WHERE A COUNCIL-WAR WAS HELD, AND VARIOUS QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AS TO THE COURSE TO BE PURSUED- WHETHER TO WAIT THERE OR TAKE UP A NEW LINE; AND IN CASE WE WAITED, WHETHER TO ATTACK OR AWAIT AN ATTACK FROM THE ENEMY.. I KNEW AT THE TIME THE VOTING OF EACH MEMBER. CERTAINLY IT DID NOT RESULT IN A NEW LINE, AND SO WHATEVER CONTINGENCY MAY HAVE AFFECTED MEADE TO ORDER ONE, CHANGE OF CONDITIONS MADE HIM HOLD HIS POSITION, SO THE CHARGES OF HIS





ENEMIES THAT HE MEDITATED AND ORDERED A RETREAT, SEEM TO ME TO HAVE LITTLE WEIGHT. THE OTHER, ON THE DAY OF THE GREAT ATTACK, GENERAL WARREN CAME TO OUR HEADQUARTERS DURING THE HEAT OF THE BATTLE; WE WERE NOT ENGAGED - SIMPLY HOLDING A POSITION. HE WAS COOL, BUT RECOGNIZED THE DESPERATE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS, SAYING "IT LOOKS AS IF THE ENEMY MIGHT BREAK THROUGH OUR LINE. IF SO, YOU MUST LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELVES." WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EFFECT OF SUCH A SUCCESS ON THE PART OF THE ENEMY, IS AN INTERESTING PROBLEM FOR MILITARY STUDENTS. COULD HE HAVE PUSHED ON AND TAKEN BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON? THERE WAS LITTLE OR NOTHING IN THE WAY OF BRAINS OR OTHER FORCE TO RESIST HIM, IN THOSE CITIES. THE WORK MUST HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC IN HIS REAR. HAD HE MOVED WITH RAPIDITY AND SECURED WASHINGTON WITH TREASURE AND MUNITIONS OF WAR, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD HARDLY HAVE DESTROYED WHEN IT EVACUATED THE CITY, AS IT ONCE IS SAID TO HAVE PREPARED TO DO, IT WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN A TERRIBLE DAMAGE <sup>to</sup> OUR SIDE, AND MIGHT HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE ASPECT AND RESULT OF THE WAR. THIS MUST RECALL TO US HOW CLOSE THE STRUGGLE WAS AT GETTYSBURG, A BATTLE UPON THE RESULT OF WHICH I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE FATE OF THE NATION DEPENDED IN THE GREATEST DEGREE.

WHEN GENERAL GRANT CAME TO THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, I ACCOMPANIED GEN. SEDGWICK AND GEN. PRINCE TO THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS TO CALL ON HIM. AFTER WE LEFT ON THE WAY HOME, THEY BOTH EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT GRANT'S GOOD APPEARANCE, SO MUCH IN CONTRAST WITH OLD ARMY DAYS. PRINCE SAID, "THE LAST TIME I SAW GRANT WAS IN ST. LOUIS. I WAS BREAKFASTING AT THE PLANTERS HOTEL AND I WAS TOLD THAT A MAN WAS AT THE DOOR BELOW WAITING TO SEE ME. I WENT DOWN AND FOUND GRANT, WHO ASKED ME TO LEND HIM A QUARTER OF A DOLLAR. I ASKED HIM WHY HE HADN'T COME TO THE BREAKFAST TABLE. HE SAID, 'OH, I AM TOO FILTHY AND WRETCHED TO BE SEEN AMONG DECENT PEOPLE.' " WHAT A SUBSEQUENT CAREER!



IN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC GEN.

MEADE PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF THREE CORPS, WITH SEDGWICK, HANCOCK AND WARREN IN COMMAND. MR. STANTON OBJECTED TO SEDGWICK ON ACCOUNT OF HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR McCLELLAN, BUT SAID HE WOULD GIVE HIM A BETTER COMMAND - 40,000 MEN IN WEST VIRGINIA. GEN. MEADE PROTESTED, SAYING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT GEN. SEDGWICK'S POLITICS WERE ; THAT PROBABLY THEY WERE THE SAME AS HIS , NOT AGREEING WITH THE SECRETARY MORE THAN HE (GEN. MEADE) DID, BUT HE WAS SURE OF HIS LOYALTY AND EFFICIENCY. THE SECRETARY SAID IF MEADE WOULD SAY THAT HE WAS INDISPENSABLE TO THE ARMY HE MIGHT REMAIN, OTHERWISE NOT. TO WHICH MEADE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT SAY THAT; BUT THAT HE WAS MORE NECESSARY TO IT THAN ANY OTHER MAN. ALL OF THIS GREATLY DISTURBED GEN. SEDGWICK. THE MATTER WAS FINALLY SETTLED, AS THE LATTER ALWAYS THOUGHT, BY MEADE'S APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT. GEN. HALLECK TOLD ME LATER, ON THE PACIFIC COAST, THAT HE INTERVENED AND SECURED HIS RETENTION. BUT GEN. HALLECK WAS AT TIMES OF AN IMAGINATIVE TURN AS I THOUGHT WHEN I SAT WITH HIM AND SOME MINERS AND FRONTIERMEN ONE FOURTH OF JULY TWO OR THREE YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR, AT A RUDE BANQUET AT RUBY CITY, IDAHO. AND HE WAS TOASTED AND QUESTIONED AS TO "THE TIMES WHEN YOU, GENERAL, WERE IN CAMP WITH THE BOYS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, " AND HE TOOK AT ALL COMPLACENTLY AS IF IT BELONGED TO HIM, AS IF HE HAD REALLY BEEN THERE AND HAD ALMOST LOADED EVERY GUN FIRED BY OUR LONG SUFFERING ARMY.

JUST BEFORE THE ARMY MOVED ON THE WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN HENRY ABBOTT COMMANDING THE 20TH MASSACHUSETTS CAME AT GENERAL SEDGWICK'S INVITATION TO SUP WITH HIM AND ME IN OUR TENT. WE HAD A MOST PLEASANT , CHATTY EVENING, AND THE GOOD QUALITIES OF BOTH THOSE SPLENDID SOLDIERS SHONE TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE. AS I WENT WITH HENRY TO HIS HORSE, HE SAID, "WHAT A DEAR OLD TRUMP THE GENERAL IS." AS I RETURNED TO THE TENT, GEN. SEDGWICK SAID,



"HE IS A FINE YOUNG GENTLEMAN, MAJOR ABBOTT." ONLY A FEW WEEKS LATER, AS I WAS CONVEYING THE GENERAL'S DEAD BODY TO HIS QUIET HOME AT <sup>Cornwall</sup> CROWWELL, CONN., WE MET THE FRIENDS OF HENRY ABBOTT, EXERCISING THE SAME SAD OFFICE FOR HIM. THE TWO BODIES WERE CARRIED SIDE BY SIDE INTO THE NEW YORK STATION.

THOSE WERE BUSY AND TRYING DAYS IN THE WILDERNESS AND SPOTTSYLVANIA- THE LONG LINE IN THE THICK JUNGLE OF THE FORMER, SHELLS DROPPING IN HERE AND THERE WITHOUT REASON OR WARNING; THE INEQUALITIES OF THE GROUND MAKING THE LINE VERY IRREGULAR, AND IT WAS A LONG AND TEDIOUS WORK TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DIFFERENT DIVISIONS. AS I WAS RIDING WITH GEN. SEDGWICK, WE CAME IN A LITTLE WOOD PATH ACROSS ONE OF THE PICKETS WHOM I TOLD TO ADVANCE, AS HE WAS FAR IN REAR OF THE LINE OF THE LEFT. HE SAID " BUT THE ENEMY IS RIGHT THERE " // I RIDICULED THIS AS IMPOSSIBLE, SO HE STARTED BY A LITTLE BEND OF THE ROAD AND WAS KILLED AT ONCE BY A MUSKET SHOT OF THE ENEMY. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE SKIRMISH LINE ON HIS LEFT WAS FAR IN ADVANCE. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE DIFFICULTIES IN SO LONG A LINE <sup>in such a country</sup>. ON THE DAY OF THE BREAKING AWAY OF OUR RIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS, GENERALS SEYMOUR AND SHALER HAD BEEN SITTING TALKING WITH GENERAL SEDGWICK. AS SEYMOUR MOUNTED HIS HORSE, HE SAID, "WELL GENERAL, WE HAVE REPULSED TWO ATTACKS TODAY, BUT MY MEN ARE PRETTY SHAKY (IT WAS A POOR DIV. <sup>now</sup>) AND I SHOULD BE VERY FEARFUL IN CASE OF ANOTHER ATTACK. " JUST AS HE SAID THESE WORDS - BANG, BANG, -THE ATTACK CAME, AND THE DIVISION AT ONCE MELTED INTO THIN AIR. ALL NIGHT WAS PASSED IN MAKING A NEW LINE, <sup>or</sup> FINDING AND PLACING THE TROOPS. THE RIGHT WAS RETIRED AND RIFLE PITS WERE BEING DUG. A VERY WARM MORNING AND THE NEGRO TROOPS, WHO HAD NOT BEEN ENGAGED OR WORKING, PASSED THROUGH OUR LINES, LOADED WITH KNAPSACKS, &C., THEY PUFFED AND SWEATED. ONE OF THE WORKING VERMONTERS OBSERVING TWO VERY BLACK AND WARM AFRICANS, DREW HIMSELF UP, SALUTED THEM, BY TAKING OFF HIS HAT AND SAID, "GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN, YOU MUST FIND THIS



WE HAD A SHARP LITTLE FIGHT THE FIRST DAY AT SPOTTSYLVANIA AND CARRIED A CREST WHICH GEN. SEDGWICK DEEMED MOST IMPORTANT TO BE HELD AND INSTRUCTED GEN. NEILL TO KEEP IT AT ALL HAZARDS; THAT HE WOULD SEND HIM INTRENCHING TOOLS, ETC. THIS WAS JUST AT DUSK. GEN. SEDGWICK AND I THEN RODE TO GEN. MEADE'S HEADQUARTERS, AND DID NOT GET BACK TO THE CORPS HEADQUARTERS UNTIL MIDNIGHT. WE SLEPT BY A HAYSTACK UNTIL DAYLIGHT, WHEN GEN. SEDGWICK WAS INFORMED THAT THE POSITION HAD BEEN ABANDONED. INQUIRY DEVELOPED AN UNSATISFACTORY CONDITION OF THINGS - THE FACT BEING THAT GEN. NEILL, WHO HAD BEEN AN EXCELLENT BRIGADE COMMANDER, HAD ENTIRELY LOST HIS NERVE, AND FROM THIS TIME ON WAS NOT GOOD FOR COMMAND. A WRECK FROM NO FAULT OF HIS, SIMPLY A TENSION TOO GREAT FOR HIM TO BEAR. GEN. SEDGWICK, AS WAS HIS CUSTOM, IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE POINT OF IMPORTANCE AND THERE FOR A LONG TIME SUPERVISED THE DIGGING OF RIFLE PITS AND ENTRENCHMENTS. SEEING SOME TROOPS MOVING BY THE ANGLE OF OUR POSITION, HE SENT ME TO SEE WHOSE THEY WERE. I APPROACHED HIM TO HAVE THE MESSAGE REPEATED. HE THINKING THAT I WAS GOING FOR MY HORSE SAID, "OH, I WOULDN'T RIDE OUT THERE." AS I RETURNED TO REPORT, I MET HIM ON THE WAY OUT. WHEN WE REACHED THE ANGLE, HE BADE THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE INFANTRY SUPPORT MOVE HIS TROOPS TO THE RIGHT A LITTLE TO GIVE THE GUNNERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THEIR GUNS. A RIFLE BALL WHIZZED BY US. A SOLDIER IN FRONT OF THE GENERAL DUCKED HIS HEAD. THE GENERAL SAID, "OH, DON'T DUCK, MY MAN, THEY COULDN'T HIT AN ELEPHANT AT THAT DISTANCE." THE MAN SAID, I DUCKED ONCE, GENERAL, AND IT SAVED MY LIFE," AT WHICH WE LAUGHED. ANOTHER BULLET AND ANOTHER DUCK, AT WHICH THE GENERAL REPROVED THE MAN DISCOVERING THAT HE WAS A SERGEANT. THE THIRD BULLET KILLED OUR COMMANDER, ONE OF THE TRUEST AND WHITEST SOULS EVER KNOWN TO ANY ARMY.

WHY HAVE THE SUPPLY AND MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS BEEN SO NEGLECTED IN THE MANY HISTORIES OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC? I DOUBT IF EQUAL EXCELLENCE OR APPROACH TO IT HAS BEEN FOUND IN ANY ARMY. THE





*Labandonce*

ADMIRABLE CLOTHING PROMPTLY FURNISHED, THE QUALITY OF FOOD; THE SUPPLIES ALWAYS READY, WHATEVER CHANGE OF BASE, THE ARMY MAY HAVE MADE, REFLECT THE GREATEST CREDIT, WHICH I DO NOT THINK HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY ACCORDED, *to the Quartermaster* TO THE TWO MEDICAL AND SUBSISTANCE DEPARTMENTS. THE CONDUCT OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, ESTABLISHMENT OF FIELD AND PERMANENT HOSPITALS, CARE OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED, WERE SIMPLY MARVELOUS. A FEW YEARS AGO DOCTOR GUENEAU *of the Orleans* DE MUSSY, THE INTIMATE OF THE COMTE DE PARIS AND HIS FAMILY, WHO HAD LATELY RECEIVED MEDICAL RECORDS OF OUR ARMY IN THE WAR, EXPRESSED TO ME IN PARIS HIS VERY GREAT ADMIRATION OF THE WORK OF OUR SURGEONS, AND SAID THAT NOTHING LIKE IT HAD BEEN KNOWN IN ANY WAR,

I NOW APPROACH THE DISAGREEABLE PART OF MY WORK; TO SPEAK OF THE INFLUENCE OF DRINK UPON MANY OF THE PROMINENT OFFICERS OF OUR ARMY, AND HOW OFTEN OUR SUCCESS WAS JEOPARDIZED BY OFFICERS CHARGED WITH IMPORTANT DUTIES BEING UNFITTED BY EXCESSES TO DO THE WORK, PERHAPS I HAD MANY UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCES AND CONNECTIONS WITH SUCH MEN OF HIGH RANK. IT IS STRANGE HOW LITTLE WAS KNOWN IN AND OUT OF THE ARMY THEN OR NOW OF THESE FAULTS AND THE DANGERS CREATED BY THEIR CONDUCT. THE LIST IS A LONG ONE. HALLECK, BENHAM, EUSTIS, WARREN, HOOKER *brought* BROUGHT MANY OTHERS. - ALL SUFFERED AND MADE OUR CAUSE SUFFER BY THEIR OVER INDULGENCE IN TIMES OF ACTION AND WHEN THEIR RESPONSIBILITY WAS GREAT. MANY OF HALLECK'S BLUNDERS, VACILLATION *Unassessable policy & unwise measures to a great crisis* CAN BE ASCRIBED TO THIS.

*Benham* WAS A PAINFUL INSTANCE OF IT. UNLIKE THE OTHERS, HE WAS DEFICIENT IN PHYSICAL COURAGE, AND NEEDED STIMULANT. IN THE PLAN OF THE CHANCELLORSVILLE CAMPAIGN, SEDGWICK WAS TO TAKE HIS CORPS, REYNOLDS' AND SICKLES' AND CROSS THE RAPPAHANNOCK BY PONTOONS, THE LAYING OF THE BRIDGES TO BE DONE BY *Benham* AT THE MEETING BEFORE THE MOVE OF THESE OFFICERS - SEDGWICK,



REYNOLDS, SICKLES AND BENHAM - THE LAST PROPOSED THAT THE BOATS & &C SHOULD BE CARRIED BY HAND A DISTANCE OF SOME MILES TO THE RIVER SO THAT THE ENEMY SHOULD NOT HEAR THE NOISE OF THEIR MOVEMENT, AND DIVINE OUR INTENTIONS. THIS WAS OVERRULED BY THE CORPS COMMANDERS UNANIMOUSLY, WHO REGARDED IT AS ABSURD. SO WE REACHED THE RIVER BANK IN THE USUAL METHOD OF CARRIAGE AND AWAITED ALL THE EVENING THE LAYING OF THE BRIDGES, THAT THE CROSSING MIGHT BE MADE AT DAYLIGHT. I WAS AWAKENED AT MIDNIGHT BY HEARING MY YOUNG FRIEND STEPHEN M. WELD, IN MUCH AGITATION SAYING TO GEN. SEDGWICK I WISH THAT YOU WOULD COME OR SEND TO THE RIVER. SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH GEN. BENHAM. I THINK HE MUST BE DRUNK. HE IS QUARRELLING AND NO WORK IS BEING DONE. I WAS SENT TO INTERVIEW GEN. BENHAM WHOM I FOUND LYING ON THE GROUND, HIS FACE BADLY SCRATCHED. <sup>to him</sup> TO HIM I COMMUNICATED GEN. SEDGWICK'S HOPE THAT THE BRIDGE WOULD BE LAID WITHOUT DELAY. HE REPLIED IN A MAUDLIN WAY <sup>to</sup> GEN. BROOKS REFUSES TO OBEY ~~ANY~~ <sup>my</sup> ORDERS. GEN. RUSSELL REFUSES TO OBEY MY ORDERS. GEN. SEDGWICK HAD BETTER COME DOWN HERE AND SEE THE CONDITION OF THINGS. <sup>to</sup> I ASKED HIM TO GO WITH ME TO SEE THOSE OFFICERS, WHO I THOUGHT WOULD GIVE HIM ALL PROPER AID IN HIS WORK. WE WENT TO THE RIVER AND THERE IN THE HEARING AND SIGHT OF MANY MEN, HE CLUTCHED MY ARM SHOUTING, "'CAPTAIN WHITTIER, CAPTAIN WHITTIER, LOOK AT ALL THESE MEN ON THE RIVER BANK. THE ENEMY WILL CERTAINLY FIRE ON US. DEAR ME, DEAR ME, WHAT SHALL I DO?'" INEXCUSABLE DELAY FOLLOWED, AND INSTEAD OF THE BRIDGES ALL BEING THROWN AT NIGHT, AS WAS EASY, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR GEN. WADSWORTH TO LEAD A PARTY IN BOATS IN THE EARLY MORNING AND EFFECT <sup>to</sup> LODGMENT. AT THE SAME TIME <sup>from West Point</sup> LIEUT. MACKENZIE OF THE ENGINEERS JUST GRADUATED, ONE OF OUR BEST OFFICERS - AFTERWARDS A BRIGADIER-GENERAL IN THE REGULAR ARMY - HAD SHARP WORDS WITH THE SAME GENERAL, FOR WHOM HE EVER AFTERWARDS EXPRESSED THE GREATEST CONTEMPT.



GENERAL EUSTIS WAS KNOWN TO BE A HARD DRINKER IN CAMP. COL. EDWARDS OF THE 37TH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT IN HIS BRIGADE CAME TO ME AT OUR HEADQUARTERS AND SAID THAT THE BRIGADIER-COMMANDER'S HABITS WERE SO NOTORIOUS AS TO IMPAIR THE EFFICIENCY OF THE BRIGADE FOR SERVICE; THAT THE COLONELS HAD MET AND DELIBERATED ON PETITIONING<sup>FOR</sup> EITHER THE BREAKING UP OF THE BRIGADE OR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A NEW COMMANDER. DOUBTING WHETHER GENERAL SEDGWICK WOULD VIEW THIS AS PROPER IN A MILITARY SENSE, THEY HAD DECIDED TO CONSULT ME, AS FROM MASSACHUSETTS, KNOWING GEN. EUSTIS AND ALSO WHAT GEN. SEDGWICK'S VIEWS WOULD BE IN SUCH A MATTER. I ASKED THEM TO DELAY ACTION AND AT ONCE WROTE TO PROF. <sup>Gurney</sup>~~SCENEAU~~ AT CAMBRIDGE SUGGESTING THAT HE BRING THE INFLUENCE OF DOCTOR AND PROF. WYMAN AND EUSTIS'S OTHER FRIENDS TO AVERT THE DISGRACE SURE TO COME IF THIS COURSE OF LIFE WERE CONTINUED. PROF. <sup>Gurney</sup>~~SCENEAU~~ UNFORTUNATELY WENT TO MRS. EUSTIS WITH THE STORY. SHE CAME TO WASHINGTON AND SENT FOR THE GENERAL WHO OF COURSE WAS AT HIS BEST, AND TOLD HIM THE STORY. EUSTIS RETURNED TO THE ARMY AND AT ONCE COMPLAINED TO GENERAL SEDGWICK THAT SOME OFFICER OF HIS STAFF HAD MALIGNED HIM. GEN. SEDGWICK SAID THAT HE HAD BUT TWO OFFICERS FROM MASSACHUSETTS ON HIS STAFF, ONE A MEDICAL OFFICER - CREHORE - THE OTHER WHITTIER. IT WAS <sup>most</sup>~~most~~ LIKELY TO BE THE LATTER. SO ALWAYS THEREAFTER OUR RELATIONS WERE STRAINED. I FELT LIKE PAUL PRY. "I WILL NEVER DO A GOOD NATURED ACTION AGAIN," BUT WHEN LATER, AS WE WERE RETURNING FROM GORDONSVILLE, GEN. SEDGWICK BEING IN COMMAND OF A CAVALRY FORCE, EARLY IN THE MORNING AND THE 6TH CORPS, AS WE SAW GEN. EUSTIS REELING ON HIS HORSE, GEN. SEDGWICK DECLARED THAT HE MUST NEVER AGAIN BE INTRUSTED WITH COMMAND OF IMPORTANCE. AT COLD HARBOR IN THE GRANT CAMPAIGN, GEN. EUSTIS WAS ABSENT THREE DAYS OF THE ENGAGEMENT AND SKIRMISHES THERE, AND I WROTE HIM IN THE CORPS COMMANDER'S NAME SAYING I AM DIRECTED BY THE LIEUT. GEN. TO PREFER CHARGES AGAINST YOU FOR YOUR CONDUCT AT COLD HARBOR. THIS I AM UNWILLING TO DO, BUT CAN



ONLY AVOID IT BY RECEIVING YOUR IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION, TO WHICH EUSTIS REPLIED THANKING HIM FOR HIS KINDNESS, SAYING THAT HE HAD THAT DAY FORWARDED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL AND HOPED TO RESUME HIS DUTIES AT CAMBRIDGE.

I HAVE NOT TIME TO TALK OF WARREN AND HOOKER. OFFICERS OF THEIR COMMANDS HAVE TOLD ME MANY STORIES OF EACH. TO WRIGHT AND THE SHENANDOAH CAMPAIGN UNDER SHERIDAN AN EVENING COULD BE WELL DEVOTED. WRIGHT HAD THE APPEARANCE AND THE REPUTATION OF BEING A WELL MANNERED, TEMPERATE MAN <sup>not at all</sup> - BY NO MEANS DEFICIENT IN PHYSICAL COURAGE, BUT WHEN RESPONSIBILITIES CAME ON HIM HE TOOK TO DRINK, AND ON TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OCCASIONS HE WAS MUCH THE WORSE FOR IT AND AT BOTH TIMES IT NEEDED A SHERIDAN TO BRING SUCCESS OUT OF AT LEAST INACTION POSSIBLY DISASTER. I SHOULD NOT SO WILLINGLY GO INTO THESE MATTERS EVEN FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH OF HISTORY, EXCEPT SO FAR AS IT MAY JUSTIFY GEN. SHERIDAN, WHO WAS AT THE TIME AND HAS SINCE BEEN CENSURED FOR USURPING A CREDIT PROPERLY BELONGING TO WRIGHT. HE WAS CRITICIZED FOR TELEGRAMS SAYING, "I SENT THE ENEMY WHIRLING UP THE VALLEY." I TOOK THE MATTER IN HAND, &C.

THE SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS RESULTING IN THE PRACTICAL ANNIHILATION OF EARLY'S FORCE IS A STRANGE MEDLEY OF WHICH THE PERSONAL ~~POWER~~ <sup>our good luck</sup> FAILURE OF GEN. SHERIDAN, AND THE OF THE ENEMY TO IMPROVE HIS OPPORTUNITIES WERE COMPONENTS. THE SIXTH CORPS ARRIVED AT WASHINGTON SOME LITTLE TIME AFTER THE ENEMY UNDER EARLY AND BRECKENRIDGE HAD PLACED THEMSELVES IN FRONT OF AND CLOSE TO OUR FORTIFICATIONS ON THE MARYLAND SIDE OF THE RIVER. IN FACT WHEN WRIGHT AND MYSELF RODE OUT THAT MORNING AT THE SOUND OF THE HEAVY GUNS, THE CORPS HAD NOT YET DISEMBARKED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN EASY MATTER FOR THE ENEMY TO MARCH INTO THE CITY, SO MUCH GEN. MC COOK IN COMMAND OF OUR TROOPS ADMITTED TO GEN. WRIGHT, WHEN WE MET HIM AT FT. STEVENS.

WITHIN A SHORT TIME, GREATLY TO OUR RELIEF, OUR LEADING





BRIGADE MADE ITS APPEARANCE. THEN THE OPPORTUNITY WAS LOST. IT WAS ON THE NEXT DAY, I THINK, THAT A SHARP LITTLE BATTLE OCCURRED, WITNESSED BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND SOME OF HIS CABINET. THE LOSSES WERE CONSIDERABLE FOR THE NUMBER OF TROOPS ENGAGED. A STRANGE SIGHT - GEN. WRIGHT MOVING UP AND DOWN ON THE PARAPET, GIVING ORDERS IN A LOUD VOICE - THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS IN THE FORT PEEPING OVER THE PARAPETS, THEIR HIGH SILK HATS BEING AN UNUSUAL SPECTACLE IN BATTLE.

THE PURSUIT THROUGH MARYLAND TO POOLESVILLE WAS NOT ESPECIALLY VIGOROUS. A LITTLE FIGHT AT SNICKERS GAP, WHERE WE FROM A HIGH HILL SAW THE ENEMY AND ONE HUNDRED DAYS' MEN SIMULTANEOUSLY RUNNING AWAY FROM EACH OTHER. THEN CAME THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY, AND SHERIDAN, THAT MARVELLOUS FIELD COMMANDER, TO WHOM IN MY JUDGMENT NOT HALF CREDIT ENOUGH HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR HIS GREAT WORK, WHICH WAS SO EFFECTIVE IN ENDING THE WAR. WHAT AN EYE FOR POSITION HE HAD. WHAT AN ARM TO STRIKE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT AND IN THE RIGHT PLACE. A GENIUS LOCI GUARDED HIM. WE MAY PARAPHRASE THIS INTO, HE HAD A VERY GENIUS FOR POSITION. AFTER MARCHING AND COUNTERMARCHING AMONG THE DEFILES AND TRAPS OF THE VALLEY, AND MAKING UP HIS MIND THAT THE TIME FOR A STRIKE AT THE ENEMY HAD COME, HE CONFERRED WITH GRANT AND WITHOUT ~~FURTHER~~ DELAY CAME THE BATTLE OF THE OPEQUAN (WINCHESTER) - A WELL PLANNED BATTLE. THE DEATH, EARLY IN THE MORNING, OF GEN. D. A. RUSSELL, AN OLD COMRADE OF GEN. <sup>Sheridan</sup> ~~SEDGWICK~~ AND ONE OF OUR BEST COMMANDERS, WAS A GREAT SHOCK TO GEN. SHERIDAN. BUT, IT SEEMED TO ME AS I ANNOUNCED IT TO HIM THAT TO THE GRIEF SUCCEEDED AN IMPETUOSITY AND ENERGY WHICH SOON SENT HIM AT THE HEAD OF HIS TROOPS AGAINST THE ENEMY, WHO STUBBORNLY RESISTED. IT WAS A SAD CIRCUMSTANCE THAT ON THIS DAY GEN. WRIGHT WAS SO OVERCOME BY DRINK THAT HE DID NOT COMMAND HIS CORPS AS HE SHOULD HAVE. SHERIDAN HAVING BEEN IN THE FRONT LINE AND SEEING GEN. EMERY UPTON WOUNDED AND LEARNING FROM HIM THE ABSENCE OF ANY OF OUR ARTILLERY AT THIS POINT, CAME



IN HASTE BACK TO WRIGHT AND ORDERED THE CHIEF OF ARTILLERY TO AT ONCE SEND GUNS TO THE ADVANCED PLACE, WHERE THE ENEMY'S GUNS WERE KILLING OUR MEN. THIS WAS THE FIRST INSTANCE TO MY KNOWLEDGE IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC WHERE GEN. WRIGHT WAS SEEN IN TIME OF ACTION UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR. AFTER THAT, WITH THE INCREASING STRAIN, SO LONG AS I SERVED WITH HIM, IT WAS HABITUAL IN TIMES OF EXCITEMENT OR POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY. SHERIDAN WON A PRETTY BATTLE AT WINCHESTER AND PURSUED THE ENEMY IN HIS OWN GOOD FASHION, UNTIL THEY MADE A STAND AT FISHER'S HILL. HERE HE ALSO MADE A GOOD PLAN OF ATTACK, SENDING ONE CORPS TO THE RIGHT BY A LONG DETOUR. IT WAS MY GOOD FORTUNE TO BE SITTING WITH HIM BY THE GUNS OF TWO BATTERIES ON HEIGHTS OPPOSING THOSE OF THE ENEMY, AS THE INFANTRY CHARGED UP THE HILL ATTACKING THE EARTHWORKS WHERE THE ENEMY WAS SITUATED. AT THE SAME TIME THE TWO BATTERIES OPENED FIRE AND DID EXCELLENT WORK. THE ENEMY RETREATED SPREADING OUT LIKE A FAN. SHERIDAN IN GREAT EXCITEMENT SAID, "BY GOD, I CAN'T STAND THIS," SPURRED HIS HORSE AND DOWN THE RAVINE HE DASHED, FOLLOWED BY HIS ORDERLY. HE ACTED AS A NOVELIST DESCRIBES "GOOD SOLDIERS, WHO HAVE WON THEIR GRADES, ARE OFTEN OF A PEACEFUL TEMPER AND WOULD NOT RAISE AN INVOCATION TO WAR. THE VIEW OF THE (RETREATING) ENEMY SET HIS PUGNACIOUS FORCES IN MOTION; THE BUGLE FILLED HIS VEINS WITH ELECTRICAL FIRE TILL HE WAS AS A RACER ON THE RACE COURSE." YES, HE WAS A RACER, AND SUCH A PURSUIT AS WE MADE THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT DAY WAS NEVER SURPASSED IN THAT ARMY. THIS WAS THE END OF OUR CAVALRY GENERAL AVERILL, WHO WENT INTO CAMP THAT NIGHT. SHERIDAN HAD NO FURTHER USE FOR HIM. WHEN THE ENEMY HAD BEEN DRIVEN SO FAR AS NO LONGER TO BE RECARDED AS A DANGER, WE MARCHED BACK DOWN THE VALLEY AND TOOK UP OUR POST<sup>13072.</sup> AT CEDAR CREEK. SOON GEN. SHERIDAN WENT TO WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH THE AUTHORITIES THERE ABOUT A SYSTEM OF FORTIFICATIONS AND DISPOSAL OF TROOPS TO GUARD THE CITY AND ENABLE THE RETURN OF AS MANY TROOPS AS COULD BE SPARED TO GRANT. OUR



CORPS TOOK UP THE LINE OF MARCH, ORDERED BACK TO PETERSBURG, AND I REMEMBER THAT WE WERE FORDING THE RIVER WHEN SOME LUCKY INFORMATION RECEIVED ABOUT THE ENEMY BROUGHT US AN ORDER TO RETURN TO CEDAR CREEK WHERE WE OCCUPIED OUR OLD CAMPS. ONE EVENING WRIGHT SAID TO ME THAT HE, EMERY AND CROOK HAD BEEN CONFERRING AND HAD DECIDED THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE ENEMY WAS ON OUR RIGHT AND ANY DEMONSTRATION WAS LIKELY TO BE THERE AND THAT HE HAD ORDERED THE CAVALRY TO MOVE THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT MORNING TO STIR UP THE ENEMY IN THIS DIRECTION. THE NEXT MORNING JUST BEFORE DAWN, I WAS AWAKENED BY SHARP AND RAPID DISCHARGES OF MUSKETRY ON OUR LEFT. THE ENEMY HAD MOVED OVER THE MOUNTAIN & GOT INTO OUR REAR. I ORDERED THE TENTS STRUCK, WAGONS LOADED UP PREPARED TO MOVE, AND THEN WENT TO GEN. WRIGHT'S TENT. HIM I FOUND DRESSING. HE TOLD ME TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO SHERIDAN'S HEAD-QUARTERS, WHERE HE SHOULD COMMAND THE ARMY, AND THAT THE REST OF THE STAFF SHOULD GO TO RICKETTS - WHO WOULD COMMAND THE SIXTH CORPS. AS SOON AS WE REACHED THE HEADQUARTERS, WRIGHT SENT ME BACK TO ORDER THE CORPS UP TO THE PIKE. SOME 15 MINUTES LATER, WHEN I RE-joined HIM, I FOUND THAT HE HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN THE CHIN, AND THAT HE HAD BEEN DRINKING SO MUCH AS TO ~~SEEMINGLY~~ AFFECT HIM *badly*. NO ONE HAD HAD ANYTHING TO EAT THAT DAY. WRIGHT REPEATEDLY SAID TO ME IN RATHER A MAUDLIN WAY, "OH, MAJOR, WE'LL WHIP THEM YET," BUT WHEN SHERIDAN CAME TO THE SCENE, HE FOUND WRIGHT ON THE GROUND *dangling over* ~~DRINKING EVEN~~ HIMSELF, ENTIRELY UNFITTED TO COMMAND. HE SLEPT ~~AND~~ PARTICIPATED IN THE SUBSEQUENT ADVANCE, ~~BUT~~ NOT WITH GREAT SPIRIT. TO THE CAVALRY BELONGED THE CREDIT OF THE RECAPTURE OF THE GUNS WE HAD LOST IN THE MORNING AND THE CAPTURE OF MANY GUNS AND PRISONERS FROM THE ENEMY.

THE CONDUCT OF GEN. G.W. GETTY *AT GETTYSBURG* COMMANDING A DIVISION OF THE SIXTH CORPS ON THAT DAY DESERVES THE ETERNAL GRATITUDE OF THE COUNTRY. WITHOUT HIM AND HIS DIVISION, WHICH I BELIEVE WAS THE ONLY ONE KEPT INTACT AND SERVICEABLE ALL THE DAY, OUR DISASTER WOULD HAVE BEEN A MOST SERIOUS ONE AND I DOUBT IF THE TIDE WOULD HAVE



TURNED AND SUCCESS BEEN GAINED. EVEN WITH THIS, UNDER THE EXISTING CONDITION OF THINGS, PROBABLY NO ATTACK WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE IF SHERIDAN HAD NOT COME TO COMMAND. WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY THE ENEMY LOST BY NOT PURSUING HIS ADVANTAGE. HAD SHERIDAN BEEN IN COMMAND ON THE OTHER SIDE HE WOULD HAVE STRUCK AS HE DID AFTER FISHER'S HILL AND IN HIS WONDERFUL PURSUIT OF LEE WHICH ENDED THE WAR.

GEN. HUMPHREY<sup>ys</sup> HAD THE SAME QUALITIES IN BATTLE AS SHERIDAN-IMPETUOSITY, DASH, A GREAT EYE FOR POSITION. HIS SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE IN ADDITION FITTED HIM FOR A MUCH HIGHER COMMAND THAN HE OBTAINED DURING THE WAR. ~~SEE~~ 'T WAS A PRETTY SIGHT AFTER FIVE FORKS TO SEE THE IMMEDIATE DIVINING BY SHERIDAN OF LEE'S MOVEMENTS AND PURPOSES, AND THE RAPID PURSUIT HE MADE IN WHICH HE WAS SO WELL SUPPORTED BY HUMPHREYS, GEN. MEADE IN ALL THESE LAST DAYS WAS VERY ILL AND DID NOT CONTRIBUTE MUCH BY HIS PERSONAL ACTION TO THE RESULT. AS SOON AS SHERIDAN HAD BROKEN THE LINE OF THE ENEMY, HE STARTED IN PURSUIT AND HUMPHREY<sup>s</sup> ORDERED ALL HIS CORPS TO FOLLOW. SOON BY ORDERS FROM MEADE <sup>Humphreys</sup> HANCOCK WAS DIRECTED TO BRING HIS CORPS INTO PETERSBURG, WHERE MEADE<sup>s</sup> AND GRANT<sup>s</sup> WERE, FOR WHAT PURPOSE I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND. MILES HAD GONE TOO FAR TO BE DISTURBED. SOON WE ALL FOLLOWED AND THEN THE LOVELY RACE BEGAN. WHICH CULMINATED IN OUR TRIUMPH AND THE END OF THE WAR.

WITH THE SECOND OF THE FLAGS OF TRUCE SENT OUT BY GEN. GRANT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SURRENDER I ACCOMPANIED GEN. SETH WILLIAMS, EACH OF US HAVING AN ORDERLY. AS WE REACHED A WOODED COUNTRY, THOUGH ~~OUR~~ <sup>OUR</sup> FLAG SEEMED TO BE PROMINENT, THE ENEMY FIRED AND SHOT ONE OF THE ORDERLIES BEHIND US. THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED AND AT THE SAME TIME NOTICE WAS GIVEN THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTERRUPTIONS OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS. ABOUT NOON A FLAG APPEARED ON THE ENEMY'S LINE. WE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THEM ALL THE MORNING AND I WAS SENT TO MEET FITZ HUGH LEE'S OFFICER, WHO MADE THE ENQUIRY WHETHER ALL OPERATIONS WERE TO CEASE PENDING THIS <sup>MIL.</sup> CONFERENCE. I WAS ABLE TO ANSWER THIS





QUESTION IN THE NEGATIVE. THAT NIGHT I WAS THE BEARER OF A MESSAGE FROM THE ENEMY TO GEN. GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS, WHICH WERE A LONG DISTANCE FROM OUR HALTING PLACE AT EVENING, AND I RETURNED FROM GRANT AND HIS HEADQUARTERS, LEAVING AT MIDNIGHT, AND NOT REACHING THE CORPS WHICH HAD MOVED ON UNTIL SOME HOURS LATER. I THREW MYSELF ON THE GROUND AND HAD SLEPT FOR A SHORT TIME WHEN I WAS AWAKENED BY GEN. HUMPHREYS WITH AN APOLOGY FOR ASKING ME TO GO OUT AGAIN AFTER SO HARD AND LONG A JOURNEY. BUT I WAS ONLY TOO GLAD OF THE OPPORTUNITY, AND SO I STARTED WITH MY FLAG AND ORDERLY. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL MORNING AND AFTER A LONG RIDE THROUGH THE WOODS I MET GEN. LEE'S CHIEF OF <sup>Commiss</sup> ~~COMMISSARIES~~, WHO SAID HE WOULD TAKE MY MESSAGE FOR GEN. LEE. I DECLINED GIVING IT TO ANY BUT A COMMISSIONED OFFICER. WE RODE ON TOGETHER AND SOON MET COL. MARSHALL OF GEN. LEE'S STAFF, AND WE KEPT ON CHATTING UNTIL WE MET GEN. LEE. HE DISMOUNTED, SAT ON THE STUMP OF A TREE AND AFTER READING THE LETTER, BEGAN DICTATING A REPLY. THEN WE HEARD THE DISTANT ARTILLERY AT APPOMATTOX AND A YOUNG OFFICER WHO HAD LOST AN ARM, WELL DRESSED, MOUNTED AND EQUIPPED GALLOPED DOWN THE ROAD, SPOKE TO GEN. LEE, WHO GAVE UP HIS DICTATION, AND GAVE BY COL. MARSHALL AN ORAL MESSAGE THAT HE HAD COME THERE EXPECTING TO MEET GEN. GRANT AND THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT ACTIVE THERE WOULD BE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, BUT NOW THAT HE WAS INFORMED OF FIGHTING AT APPOMATTOX, HE WISHED TO KNOW WHEN AND WHERE HE COULD MEET GEN. GRANT. I RETURNED WITH MY MESSAGE AND AT NOON WAS AGAIN SENT OUT WITH A LETTER FROM GEN. MEADE. AS I WAS RIDING BY A LITTLE HOUSE WITH ORDERLY AND LARGE FLAG DISPLAYED A SHOWER OF BULLETS FROM THE WOODS IN FRONT CAME BY ME. I HALTED SOON A VOICE ( OF A LEUTENANT LAMAR) SAID COME ON, DON'T BE AFRAID, AND WITH SOME NATURAL INDIGNATION SAID, \* I THINK THIS IS PLAYED OUT. I CAME OUT YESTERDAY WITH GEN. <sup>William</sup> ~~WRIGHT~~ AND A FLAG AND WE HAD OUR ORDERLY SHOT, AND NOW WITH THIS BIG FLAG FULLY IN SIGHT, YOU FIRE ON ME! " HIS ONLY REPLY WAS, " I HAVE NO ORDERS NOT TO FIRE ON FLAGS OF TRUCE." THESE



WERE THE LAST HOSTILE SHOTS FIRED BY MEE'S<sup>f</sup> ARMY AND WITH THEM MY EGOTISTICAL STORY MAY WELL END.

I WISH THAT I COULD SCRATCH OUT MANY OF THE I'S, THOUGH WE MUST HEREAFTER, I THINK, RELY SOMEWHAT ON PERSONAL REMINISCENCES, AND THEY MAY FILL IN CHINKS OR EXPLAIN SUCCESSES AND ERRORS FOR WHICH THE REASONS BEFORE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY KNOWN. I ALWAYS THINK THAT A GRAVE MISTAKE HAS BEEN MADE BY ONLY BIDICULING THAT HISTORICAL FLY ON THE CHARIOT WHELL WHO SAID, "WHAT A GREAT DUST I EXCITE!" WHY NOT GET HIS WHOLE STORY WITH ALL ITS EGOTISM? HE MIGHT HAVE GIVEN VALUABLE EVIDENCE AS TO SOME IMPORTANT PART OF THE RACE AND BEEN A GREAT SERVICE TO THE HISTORIANS AND TO FUTURE CHARIOTEERS.

Egotistic MEMOIRS,  
C. A. W.

Feb'y 13. 1888

M. M. Hest. S. J.













